

**Listing of Claims:**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended): A method of manufacturing a metal hydride alkaline storage cell comprising the steps of:

a first step of preparing a negative electrode by applying a paste onto a substrate, wherein said paste contains hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder and a catalytic metal compound which is soluble in an electrolyte and selected from the group consisting of a catalytic metal fluoride, a catalytic metal chloride, a catalytic metal iodide, and a catalytic cobalt metal sulfide and/or a catalytic nickel sulfide, in the proportion of 0.1 to 2.5 wt% based on the weight of said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder; and

a second step of placing said negative electrode and a positive electrode into a cell can with disposing a separator therebetween, and thereafter pouring an electrolyte into said cell can.

10. (currently amended): A method of manufacturing a metal hydride alkaline storage cell comprising the steps of:

a first step of preparing a negative electrode by applying a paste containing a hydrogen absorbing alloy powder onto a substrate; and

a second step of placing said negative electrode and a positive electrode into a cell can with disposing a separator therebetween, and thereafter pouring an electrolyte into said cell can, wherein said electrolyte contains a catalytic metal compound which is soluble in said electrolyte

and selected from the group consisting of a catalytic metal fluoride, a catalytic metal chloride, a catalytic metal iodide, and a catalytic cobalt metal sulfide and/or a catalytic nickel sulfide, in the proportion of 0.1 to 2.5 wt% based on the weight of said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~9~~ 10 wherein said catalytic metal compound is said catalytic metal fluoride and is at least one catalytic metal fluoride selected from the group consisting of a cobalt fluoride, a nickel fluoride, an aluminum fluoride, and a copper fluoride.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~9~~ 10 wherein said catalytic metal compound is catalytic metal fluoride and said catalytic metal fluoride is  $\text{CoF}_2$  and/or  $\text{NiF}_2$ .

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~9~~ 10 wherein said catalytic metal compound is catalytic metal chloride and said catalytic metal chloride is a cobalt chloride and/or a nickel chloride.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The method of claim ~~9~~ 10 wherein said catalytic metal compound is catalytic metal iodide and said catalytic metal iodide is a cobalt iodide and/or a nickel iodide.

15. (cancelled):

16. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~9~~ 10 wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder is selected from the group consisting of rare-earth element hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Zr-Ni based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Ti-Fe based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Zr-Mn based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, Ti-Mn based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder, and Mg-Ni based hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder.

17. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~9~~ 10 wherein said hydrogen-absorbing alloy powder comprises hydrogen-absorbing alloy having a  $\text{CaCu}_5$  type crystal structure expressed by the general formula  $\text{MmNi}_a\text{Co}_b\text{Al}_c\text{Mn}_d$ , where  $a > 0$ ,  $b > 0$ ,  $c > 0$ ,  $d \geq 0$ , and  $4.4 \leq a + b + c + d \leq 5.4$ .